

**DRAFT SCREENING SITE INVESTIGATION  
FOR THE  
EUSTON LEAD COMPANY SITE  
500 PENN AVENUE  
SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA  
ECKEL SITE NUMBER 74**

Prepared for

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3  
Hazardous Site Cleanup Division  
1650 Arch Street  
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Remedial Action Contract No. 68-S7-3002  
Work Assignment No. 048-PAPA-03ZZ  
Project No. I4185.47502.0903

January 31, 2007

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Under Remedial Action Contract (RAC) No. 68-S7-3002, Work Assignment No. 048-PAPA-03ZZ, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 tasked Tetra Tech, Inc. (Tt), to assist EPA Region 3 in the assessment of properties suspected to have been former lead smelter foundries. Tt subcontracted completion of this work assignment to Tetra Tech EM Inc. (Tetra Tech).

Former lead smelter sites nationwide were identified in an April 2001 article published in the American Journal of Public Health by Eckel, and others (Eckel study) (Reference [Ref.] 1). The majority of these lead smelters operated prior to 1964 and closed before the current environmental regulations were instituted. As part of the Eckel study, soil samples were collected from several of the identified former lead smelter properties. Results from the analysis of these soil samples indicated that concentrations of lead exceeded EPA's recommended screening level for lead in residential soils. The results of the Eckel study indicate that the air disposition of lead into soils from the former smelter operations may present an ongoing public health concern due to exposure of residential populations, especially children, located in the vicinity of these former lead smelters, to soils containing elevated concentrations of lead (Refs. 1, 2, and 3).

The Eckel study identified 77 properties that may have been formerly used as lead smelters within EPA Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia). EPA Region 3 is currently investigating these 77 properties. The objective of EPA's investigation of these properties is to (1) determine the potential for lead-contaminated soil to be present at the former lead smelter site or nearby properties (2) identify any populations that may be at risk to exposure to this soil, and (3) determine if soil sampling is warranted at any of these sites or nearby properties.

The following activities were completed as part of the initial screening investigation of each of these former lead smelter sites: (1) verify the former lead smelter address listed in the Eckel

study through historical Sanborn fire insurance maps, tax parcel information, and/or contacting local agencies, (2) determine if the site is listed in EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database, (3) determine through census information and existing maps the number of schools, daycare centers or recreational parks that exist near the former lead smelter site, (4) determine the population residing within a 4-mile radius of the site, (5) conduct a windshield reconnaissance of the site and surrounding area to document the current land use, identify any exposed soil and verify the existence of any schools, daycare centers or parks in the immediate area, and (6) review all information acquired to determine if the collection and analysis of soil samples is warranted at the site or at any nearby property.

This report summarizes the findings of the tasks outlined above for the former lead smelter known as the Euston Lead Company site located at 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18509. Each former smelter property was given a number in Eckel's study. The Eckel study number for this site is 74 (Ref. 1).

## **2.0 SITE LOCATION**

The former Euston Lead Company facility was located at 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania, 18509. The geographic coordinates of the former Euston Lead Company facility are 41.413076 north latitude and 75.662206 west longitude on the Scranton, Pennsylvania Quadrangle, 7.5 minute series, United States Geological Survey topographic map (see Appendix A, Figure 1). The site is not currently listed in EPA's CERCLIS database (Ref. 4). An aerial photograph of the vicinity of the former lead smelter site has been included in Appendix A, Figure 2. This aerial photograph reveals the exposed soils and any identified areas of potential concern such as schools, daycare centers, or parks located within a half-mile radius of the site.

### **3.0 SITE OBSERVATIONS**

On February 16, 2006, Tetra Tech completed a non-sampling windshield reconnaissance of the Euston Lead Company site and surrounding area. A photographic record of the current site conditions is included in Appendix B. Figure 3, shows the current layout of the site and surrounding area as observed during Tetra Tech's site reconnaissance. The following observations were recorded:

- The subject property is currently the location of the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen. There is no evidence of a building that could have been used as a foundry located on the site. Several large warehouses are located behind the kitchen that may have been associated with the Euston Lead Company facility. There is about one quarter acre of grass yard on the property, a small asphalt parking lot and a dirt/gravel lot abutting the parking lot toward the back of the kitchen. The site is located in a primarily commercial area of Scranton.
- A small two-story residential home is located directly east of the former facility, in addition to three large abandoned warehouses. West of the site, on the northeast corner of Vine Street and Penn Avenue is the Penn Warehouse, a historic paper company. The opposite side of the Vine Street – Penn Avenue intersection, south of the property, is a large grass covered area and is the location of a government facility and Veteran Center.
- Exposed soils were identified on the site and in the nearby vicinity.
- The Lackawanna River, a tributary to the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay, is located approximately one-quarter mile northwest of the site.
- No parks or daycare facilities were identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. Scranton University and Bishop Hannan High School are located approximately one block south of the former lead smelter.

#### 4.0 POTENTIAL TARGETS

Potential targets identified that may be exposed to lead-contaminated soils remaining in the vicinity of the former Euston Lead Company site include the nearby residential population. The population within a 4-mile radius of the site is summarized in the table below (Ref. 5).

**Population within a Four-mile Radius of the Site**

<b>Distance Ring (miles)</b>	<b>Population (number of persons)</b>
0.0 to 0.25	3,871
0.25 to 0.5	12,392
0.5 to 1.0	78,925
1.0 to 2.0	133,940
2.0 to 3.0	170,688
3.0 to 4.0	190,842

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce. Landview V Environmental Mapping Software based on the Bureau of Census 2000 Population Data. December 6, 2005.

No parks or daycare facilities were identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. Scranton University and Bishop Hannan High School are located approximately one block south of the former lead smelter. Three additional schools have been identified within one-half mile of the site, including Central High School located approximately one-quarter mile southeast of the site, Scranton Technical High School located over one-quarter mile northwest of the site, and Adams Elementary School located approximately one-half mile north of the site. Steamtown National Historical Site is located one-half mile southwest of the former lead smelter. Large, unidentified, grassy areas are located greater than one-quarter mile northwest of the site.

## **5.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The property is located in a primarily commercial area of Scranton. Exposed soils were observed on and in areas directly surrounding the site. Multiple schools were identified in close proximity to the former lead smelter. To determine if there is a threat to the population located in the vicinity of the former lead smelter site, it is recommended that soil samples be collected from exposed soils in these areas and analyzed for lead levels.

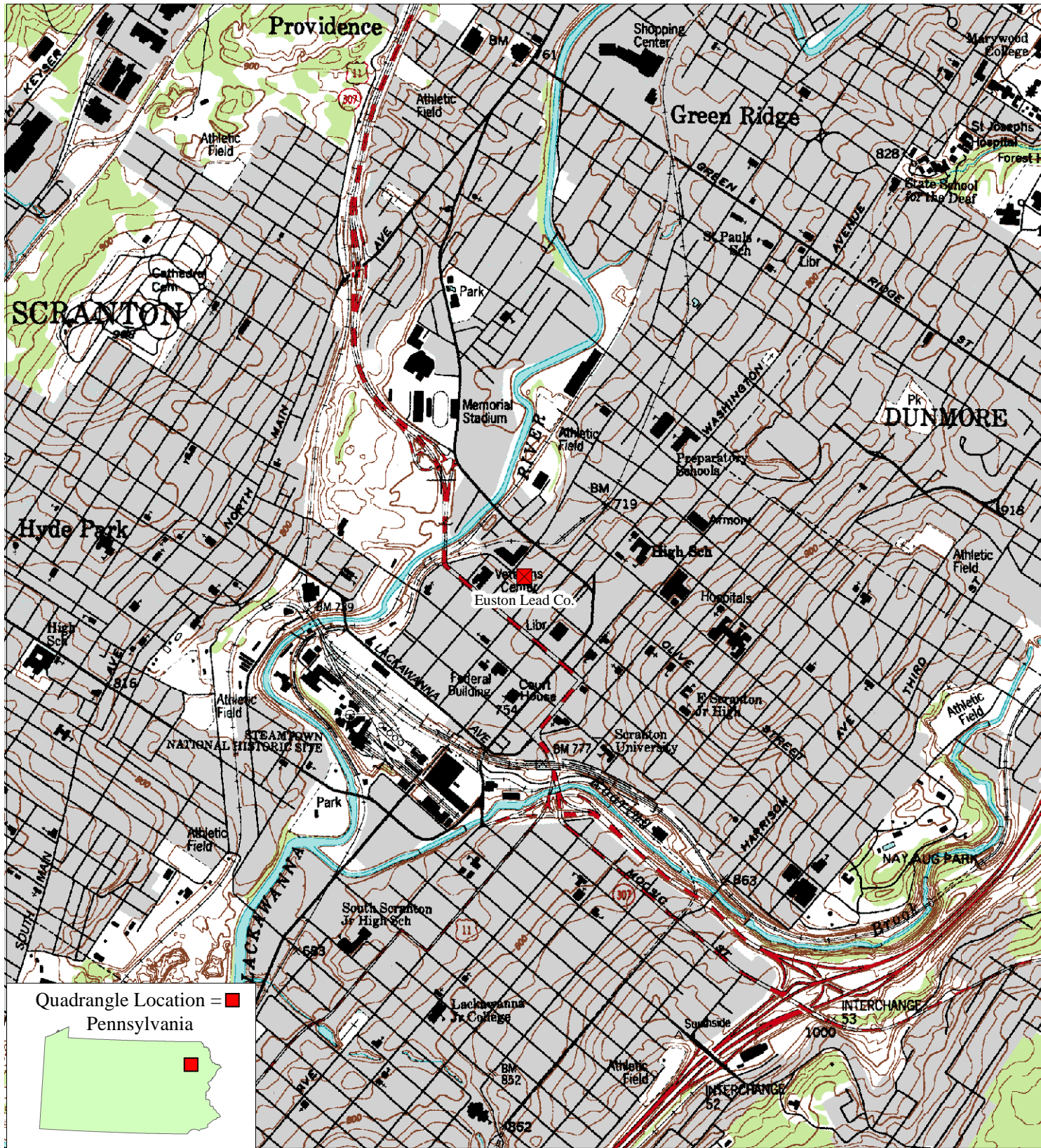
## REFERENCES

1. Eckel, W.P., Rabinowitz, M.B., Foster, G.D. American Journal of Public Health. "Discovering Unrecognized Lead-Smelting Sites by Historical Methods". April 2001.
2. Pennsylvania Department of Health. Suspected Former Lead Smelter Sites: A Potential Risk Factor for Childhood Lead Poisoning. August 2004.
3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Revised Interim Soil Lead Guidance for CERCLA Sites and RCRA Corrective Action Facilities. OSWER Directive 9355.4-12. July 14, 1994.
4. U.S. EPA. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act Information System (CERCLIS) database. On-Line Address: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/supercpad/cursites/srchsites.cfm>
5. U.S. Census Bureau. State and County Quick Facts. Accessed On-Line on December 6, 2005. On-Line Address: [quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42.html](http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/42.html).



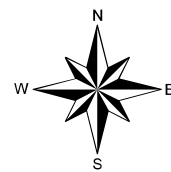
## **Appendix A**

### **Figures**



0 1,000 2,000  
Feet  
Scale in Feet

Euston Lead Co.  
500 Penn Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
Eckel Site No. 74

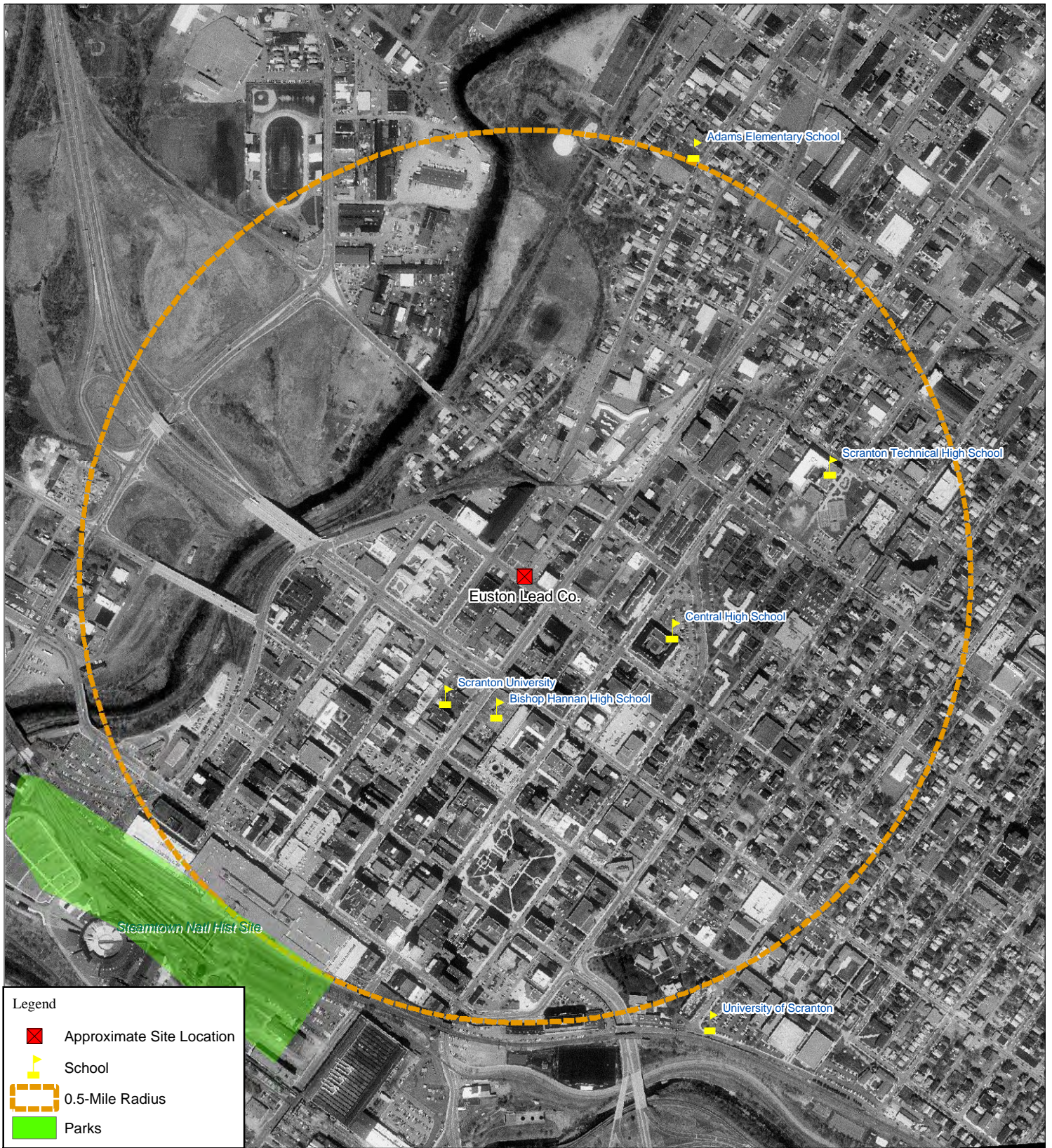


**Figure 1**  
Site Location Map



Source: Modified from USGS, Scranton, Pennsylvania  
Quadrangle, 1994.

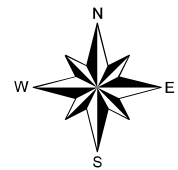




0 400 800  
Feet

Scale in Feet

Euston Lead Co.  
500 Penn Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
Eckel Site No. 74

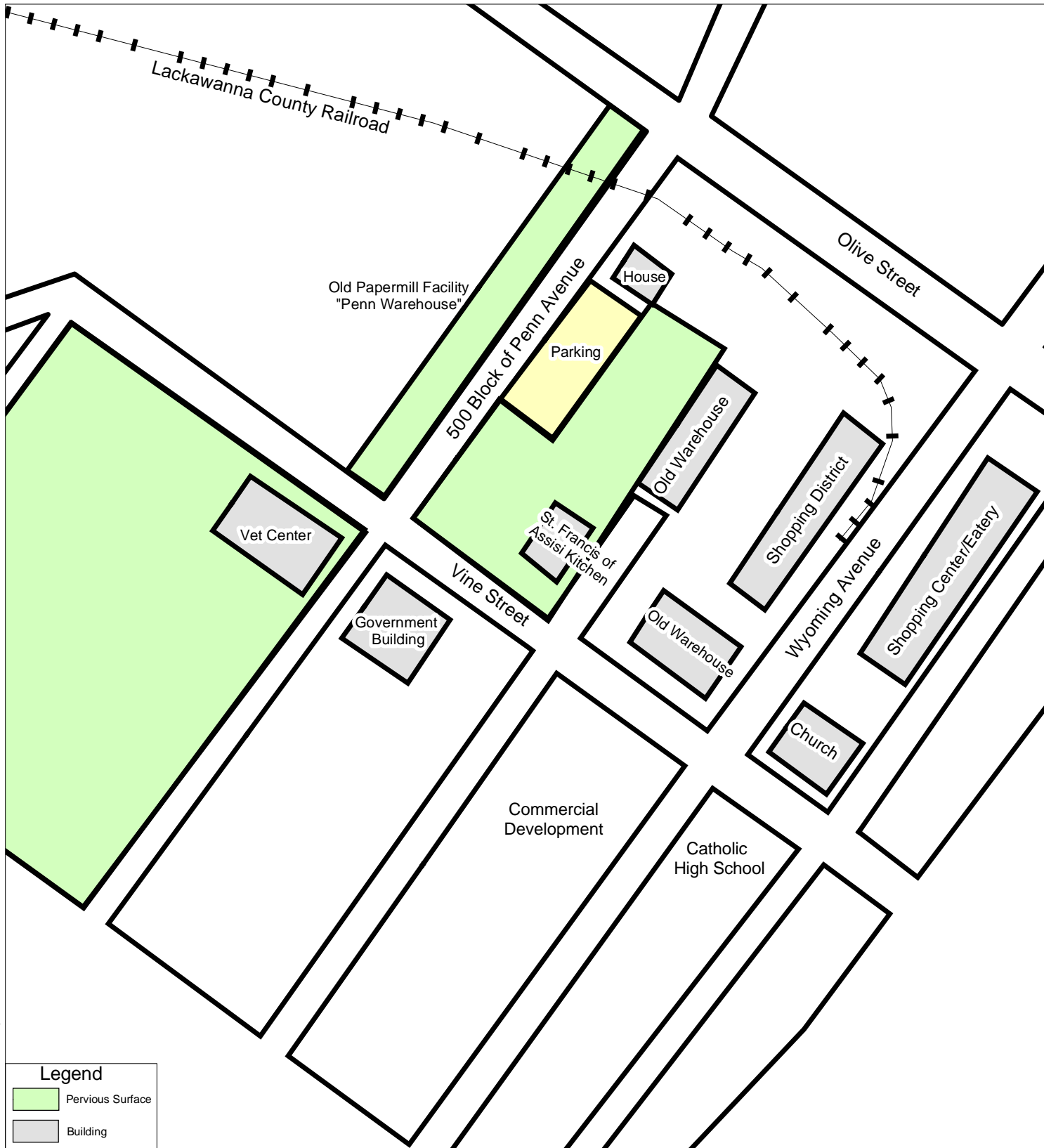


**Figure 2**  
Aerial Photograph



Source: Modified from USGS, 1999, and ESRI, 2005.





0 75 150 Feet

Scale in Feet

Euston Lead Co.  
500 Penn Avenue  
Scranton, Pennsylvania  
Eckel Site No. 74

**Figure 3**  
Site Layout Map

TETRA TECH EM INC

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**Appendix B**  
**Photographic Documentation**



## *Photographic Documentation*

**Site Name:** Euston Lead Company – Eckel Number 74

**Location:** 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania

**Prepared by:** Tetra Tech EM Inc.

**Photographer:** [REDACTED]

### **Photograph No. 1**

**Photograph Date:**

February 9, 2006

**Orientation:** South East

**Description:** View of 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA. The former site of Euston Lead Company is now the location of the St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen.



### **Photograph No. 2**

**Photograph Date:**

February 9, 2006

**Orientation:** South

**Description:** To the east and south of the former site, are three large abandoned warehouses and a small two-story residence.





## *Photographic Documentation*

**Site Name:** Euston Lead Company – Eckel Number 74

**Location:** 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania

**Prepared by:** Tetra Tech EM Inc.

**Photographer:** [REDACTED]

### **Photograph No. 3**

**Photograph Date:**

February 9, 2006

**Orientation:** North West

**Description:** Intersection of Penn Avenue and Vine Street. There is a Veterans Center, newly constructed with a small park and grassy landscaping.



### **Photograph No. 4**

**Photograph Date:**

February 9, 2006

**Orientation:** West

**Description:** Intersection of Vine Street and Penn Avenue. There is a government building and other associated offices.

